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BELPER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1947

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN

M.R.C.S.(Eng.) L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.(Birm).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Belper Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

The provisions of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and the Sanitary Officers Order 1926 impose upon me the duty of preparing, each year, a Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district.

The Report set out in the following pages is the fourteenth I have had the honour to present.

Each year the Ministry of Health issues a Circular to all similar Local Authorities to yours,(indicating briefly the lines upon which the Report should follow)and enclose Tables of Vital Statistics for the year under review of the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Analysis of Mortality from selected groups of Towns in England and Wales.

The issue of this Instruction annually by the Ministry of Health, will explain, to those Councillors who carefully peruse this Report and compare it with the Reports of previous years, where available, the unavoidable similarity, almost stereotyped character of each Report.

When you appreciate the great number of Reports prepared annually for the Minister's Department it is understandably recognised that some degree of uniformity is desirable.

Not only in "form" do I follow last year's Report, but again I have pleasure to report that another year's records show a continued very satisfactory condition of the general health of the District. Deaths were increased by 16, Births increased from 488 to 504 and only Measles showed an increased number of notifications.

You will note in the Report that 90% of the houses have a public water supply and 78% of the houses are connected to public sewers, two factors which must very greatly reduce any risk of epidemics frompolluted wells or bad drainage.

Again I must call attention to the unsatisfactory position regarding the water supplies in the village of Mackworth. You will be aware that this parish is within the Derby Borough area of supply, and the Rural District Council is precluded from taking action which would incur a water-rate. The conditions remain practically the worst in all this rural district.

I am aware of the numerous applications you have received for housing accommodation and the response made to this demand, but this problem is one which may remain unsolved for many years, and the total Housing Debt carried by the Council of £372,000 will rapidly increase in the immediate future.

It is with pleasure I report there were no cases of Diphtheria notified during 1947. During the year 176 children under 5 years and 15 children between 5-15 years were immunised against this disease.

I trust the Report will give a picture of your area satisfactory of past achievement and pointing to the path along which further advance is desirable.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

RICHARD C. ALLEN. D.P.H. M.O.H.

BELPER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The District is composed of 28 parishes whose populations vary from approximately 32 to 5000, and their rateable values from £76 to £33689. The Members of the Council prior to 1945 will recall how the product of a penny rate precluded or retarded the desirable sanitary progress in those parishes with the low rateable values. Now this is all changed. The cost of the schemes is borne by the rate levied over the whole rural area and schemes of scavenging operate in the rural parishes far more costly than the rateable value of the parish could have carried.

Area of district in acres	48,074
Population 1931 census	22,956
Population estimated	27,790
(Registrar General's estimate	27,450)
Number of inhabited houses 1947	8,105
Number of families or separate occupiers	8,141
Rateable Value (Allowing for probable adjustments)	£163,305
Sum represented by a penny rate	£645
Total Loan Debt	£454,493
Debt for Housing only	£372,054
Houses erected during the yesr:	
By Council	58
By Private Enterprise	38

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.		Male	Female	Total
Live Births		256	248	504
	Legitimate	251	239	490
	Illegitimate	5	9	14

Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population 18.36

Still Births	Legitimate	6	3	9
	Illegitimate	1		1
Deaths	Legitimate	11	3	14
	Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of infants under One Year of Age

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	27.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Infantile Mortality

All Infants per 1000 live births	31.1

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil

DEATH RATE.

Death Rate per 1000 estimated population			11.36
Deaths from Cancer	Male 30	Female 19	Total 49
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years	1	-	1

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DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1947.

The following Table shows the causes of deaths registered in the year 1947.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	4	6
Syphilitic Diseases		1	1
Influenza	1	2	3
Measles		1	1
Cancer of buc:Cav: & desoph (m)	2		2
Cancer of Uterus (f)		1	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
Cancer of breast		6	6
Cancer of other sites	25	11	36
Diabetes	2	1	3
Intercranial vascular lesions	12	24	36
Heart Diseases	51	47	98
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	3	9
Bronchitis	9	9	18
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Other respiratory diseases	3	4	7
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
Diarrhoea	1		1
Other digestive disorders	2	1	3
Nephritis	6	4	10
Premature Births	2	1	3
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Disorders	4	1	5
Suicide	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
Other violent causes	6	4	10
All other causes	19	15	34
TOTALS	165	147	312

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Hospital accommodation is available for cases of fever and smallpox at the Heage Joint Hospital.

The County Council provide accommodation for tuberculous patients.

CASES NOTIFIED.

	Scarlet Fever	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Polio Myelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	Measles	Whooping Cough
ALDERWASLEY							1			
ALLESTREE	1		1		3		4		25	4
ASHLEYHAY	1									
CRICH				1	1		4		62	15
DARLEY ABBEY	4								2	
DENBY	2					1	2		16	4
DETHIC, LEA & HOLLOWAY						1	2		2	4
DUFFIELD					1		2		7	
HAZELWOOD									1	
HOLBROOK						1			2	
HORSLEY	1								5	2
HORSLEY WOODHOUSE					2	3			3	
IDRIDGEHAY & ALTON										
KEDLESTON										
KILBOURNE	4		1	1	2	2	1		12	
KIRK LANGLEY									3	
MACKWORTH										
MAPPERLEY		1			2				7	3
PENTRICH									1	
QUARNDON					1				1	
RAVENSDALE PARK										
SHOTTLE & POSTERN			1			1	1			1
SHIPLEY							1		9	2
SMALLEY	3				2				16	7
SOUTH WINGFIELD	3		2		1	1		1	19	1
TURNDITCH										
WESTON UNDERWOOD										
WINDLEY										
TOTALS	19	1	5	2	15	10	18	1	193	43

THERE WERE NO CASES NOTIFIED FOR THE FOLLOWING DISEASES:-

DIPHTHERIA
PARATYPHOID
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

THERE WAS ONE DEATH FROM MEASLES.

BELOW IS THE AGE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1947.

	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total
Scarlet Fever				1	2	11	4	1					19
T.B. Pulmonary									7	4	4	3	18
T.B. Non-Pulmonary											1		1
Puerperal Pyrexia									1	1			2
Pneumonia	2	1		2			2	1	1	1	2	3	15
Erysipelas									1	1	2	6	10
Whooping Cough	2	4	6	3	6	20	1		1				43
Measles	2	13	22	22	22	95	10	1	4	2			193
Polio Myelitis				1	1		1			2			5
Meningitis									1				1
Totals	6	18	28	29	31	126	18	3	16	11	9	12	307

NO SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THIS YEAR.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following table shows the examinations carried out during the year in the County Bacteriological Laboratory, Derby for this District.

	Pos:	Neg:
Diphtheria	-	32
Vincents Angina	-	30
Haemalytic Streptococci	10	34
Sputa for Tubercle bacilli	-	20
Water	6	18
Milk		
Methylene Blue Test, Routine	-	2
Tubercle bacilli, Innoculation Test:-		
Routine samples	-	22
Min: of Agriculture Samples	-	4
Miscellaneous	12	16
Total	28	178

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the above statement.

All the bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses are undertaken on behalf of the Council by the Derbyshire County Council's bacteriologist and chemist, but sampling under the Food & Drugs Act is done by an officer of the County Council.

Again I would express my thanks for the assistance the Council has extended and the help rendered by the officers of the Council.

R.C. ALLEN

Medical Officer of Health.

Table [illegible] TEN [illegible] OF CASES OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES DURING 1947.

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total
[illegible]							1	2	11		4		[illegible]
[illegible]										7	4	5	18
[illegible]									1				1
[illegible] Pneumonia						1					1		2
Pneumonia					1				3		1	2	5
Lobar [illegible]										1	1	2	10
Whooping Cough				1	4	5	5	20	1		1		45
Measles				2	15	12	22	95	10	1	6	2	185
Poliomyelitis							1	1	1			2	5
Leptospirosis											1		1
Totals			6	2	29	21	126	118	3	16	14	12	307

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS.

The valley of the Derwent runs through the District from North to South and this division is further emphasised by the parishes on the Western side being residential or agricultural in character, and those to the East are principally industrial.

PRINCIPAL LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining, Agriculture (largely milk-producing), Limestone Quarrying and Cotton and Hosiery Manufacturing.

STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a part-time appointment. The Chief Sanitary Inspector. Two additional Sanitary Inspectors and the Clerical Staff. Half the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors are re-imbursed by the Ministry of Health through the County Council. The Department's Offices are at Wellington Court, Belper.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council's water supplies are under the supervision of a Water Bailiff, and provide a good public water supply for 4989 houses in the most populous parishes. The principal sources of supply are the springs at Handley Wood and Cross-o-th-Hands for Duffield, bore-hole at Lea for Crich, Dethick, Lea & Holloway, South Wingfield and Pentrich, and the Derwent Valley Water Scheme for the parishes of Denby, Holbrook, Horsley Woodhouse, Kilburn and Smalley. Derby Corporation have sole right of supply to Allestree, Darley Abbey, Quarndon and Mackworth, and the parish of Mapperley takes a supply from the Shardlow Rural Council's mains. Most of these waters are chlorinated and no house takes its supply from a standpipe. The parish of Shipley is partly supplied by Heanor Urban Council and partly by Shipley Collieries, bringing the total number of houses taking a supply from other Authorities to 2,330, thus 90% of houses have a piped supply.

SCAVENGING.

The parishes of Mapperley (102 houses) and Shipley (233 houses), Horsley Woodhouse (360 houses) and Smalley (394 houses) are scavenged by contract, and a contractor collects the nightsoil from the parishes of Kirk Langley and Mackworth. The direct labour schemes for the remaining parishes are operated with three Karriers 7.cu.yards, one Karrier 10.cu.yards and one Dennis 7 cu. yards. The annual cost of scavenging the District is £10520 and provides a house to house collection varying from once in 7 days to once in 12 days. There is also a direct labour service operating a weekly nightsoil collection scheme, and the emptying of privy middens is done in rotation, necessitating the labour of one team on three Saturday mornings each month. Fortunately cesspools are not numerous and the Council have not seen the need to undertake their emptying, which, because of their very scattered siting, would be most costly. Like many other authorities we experience difficulty in maintaining the service, but we are working towards achieving a regular weekly collection by direct labour.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping, and it is no easy task to find sites conveniently placed in the various parishes. Though fairly long hauls are necessary, the tip at Darley Abbey has to serve many parishes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No extensions have been made to the numerous disposal plants dotted about the district. Fairly large works are sited at Duffield, Allestree, Crich and Kilburn. Works also operate in the parishes of Darley Abbey, Holbrook, Horsley Woodhouse, Quarndon, Mapperley, Smalley and South Wingfield, making a total of 14 sewage disposal plants in the whole rural district.

Generally it has been the practice to accept the roof and yard water into the sewers. Additional to these works, we have sewers discharging to the main drainage system of Derby Corporation, Shardlow Rural District Council, Heanor Urban Council, and Ilkeston Borough Corporation, and this Council accepts a small amount of sewage from Derby Corporation and Chesterfield Rural District.

It is calculated that 78.8% of the total houses are connected to sewers.

During the year there have been conversions of 16 pail closets and 10 privy middens to the water carriage system and 1 privy to 1 pail closet.

A report on the conditions generally obtaining of the sanitary arrangements in the District other than W.C.'s has been before the Sanitary Committee, but it was decided the time was not opportune to inaugurate a comprehensive conversion scheme. The conversions carried out have all been voluntarily undertaken without any contribution from the Council.

The closet accommodation for the whole area is:-

5791	Houses	with	W.C.'s
1888	"	"	Pail Closets
380	"	"	Privy Middens
19	"	"	Waste Water Closets

The privy middens are chiefly found in the more rural parishes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Returns indicate there has been a slight increase in the number of notifiable diseases. Measles appears to have been four times more prevalent than last year and there was one death.

Many of the cases are visited by the Medical Officer, and after removal of the patient to hospital or recovery, your Inspectors disinfect the house and leave a supply of disinfectants for the final cleansing of the rooms.

During the year 27 rooms were disinfected.

RAG AND FLOCK ACT.

There are no premises in the District in which Rag Flock is manufactured.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Ministry of Food have no premises in the area at which slaughtering takes place. There have been no grounds for complaint of the manner in which the Knacker Yards (2) have operated.

Food surrendered by the local retailers as unfit for human consumption wherever possible, is salvaged for animal feeding stuff, or for industrial purposes. The amount be surrendered has been very small.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

As stated under "Social Conditions" dairy farming is a most important industry of the rural parishes on the Western side of the District. Improvements have been carried out on some farms to the buildings to bring them up to the necessary standard of fitness required for the production of graded milk.

There are some 420 farms of which 7 are licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and there are 124 producers of Accredited Milk, or practically one third of the producers have been granted Graded Milk Licences

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

BELPER RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT 1947.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

	Number of Notices served		No. of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
	Informal	Legal	
CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.			
Defective Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits (Not for Conversions)	9		5
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s		6	11
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	2		13
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets			1
Defective Water Closets	9	3	12
Provision of Additional Water Closets	1		1
Provision of Portable Ashbins	43	5	48
Dirty Closets	-	-	-
DRAINAGE.			
No Disconnection of WastePipe	-	-	-
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets & Drains	4		9
Drains Obstructed	4	1	6
OTHER DEFECTS.			
Paving of Courts and Yards	1		1
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts	40	19	37
Sinks	3		2
Insufficient Ventilation	2		2
Windows	11	11	15
Dampness	23	4	20
Water in Cellars	-	-	-
Water Supply	6		6
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Foul Condition of Houses	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	-	-	-
Animals Improperly Kept	-	-	-
Pigsties	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances	-	-	-
Urinals	-	-	-
Nuisances not specified above	49	21	61
TOTALS	207	70	250

ALSO THERE WERE 909 INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	Inspections Made	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	430	47	
Bakehouses	6		
Slaughterhouses	22	5	
Offensive Trades	2		
Common Lodging-Houses	-		
Totals		52	

(Signed) JAMES LAYCOCK
Chief Sanitary Inspector